

Amendments to the Specification:

In the English translation document, please delete the term --Description-- at page 1 line 1 before the title.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading and paragraph at page 1 line 4, after the title, as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the US National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/052163, filed September 14, 2004 and claims the benefit thereof. The International Application claims the benefits of German application No. 10345535.3 filed September 30, 2003, both of the applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 4, after the newly added CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section, as follows:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 8, as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 2 line 3, as follows:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2 line 11, as follows:

-- This object is achieved according to the invention by a method ~~with the features specified in claim 1~~, a control program ~~with the features specified in claim 7~~ and a client with the features given in the claims 8. Advantageous developments of the present invention are set down in the dependent claims.--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 2 line 28, as follows:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 3 line 11, as follows:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8 line 29, as follows:

-- The following observations serve to clarify the advantages of the described method for checking the availability of a server compared with conventional keepalive tests used up to now. According to the conventional keepalive tests used up to now a server with $n=1000$ clients sending availability requests and a request rate of $a=3$ requests per minute and client, and assuming such requests were equally distributed in time, would have to respond to an availability request every

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{60s}{a \cdot n} = \frac{60s}{3 \cdot 1000} = 20ms \\ \text{---} \\ t_r(a=3, n=1000) = \frac{60s}{a \cdot n} = \frac{60s}{3 \cdot 1000} = 20ms. \text{ --} \end{array}$$